SPEECH BY SBA ADMINISTRATOR HECTOR V. BARRETO

AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE

BARELAS JOB OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 15, 2001

BUENOS DIAS, EVERYONE. WHAT A GREAT DAY FOR ALBUQUERQUE! WHAT A GREAT DAY FOR SMALL BUSINESS!

MR. PRESIDENT – IT IS A REAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE
HERE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO BE PART OF AN
ADMINISTRATION THAT IS SO COMMITTED TO SERVING THE
INTERESTS OF SMALL BUSINESSES.

WHAT GRATIFIES ME THE MOST, MR. PRESIDENT, IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOU ON THE VISION WE SHARE FOR AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES.

PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE PEOPLE YOU SEE UP HERE WITH
ME TODAY ARE THE VERY PUBLIC SIDE OF THE KIND OF
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT PRODUCE

EXTRAORDINARY CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS LIKE THE BARELAS JOB OPPORTUNITY CENTER.

THE BARELAS CENTER IS THE PHYSICAL EMBODIMENT OF THAT PARTNERSHIP, THAT SHARED COMMITMENT TO THIS COMMUNITY, AND TO THIS ENTIRE CITY.

THIS FORMER WAREHOUSE IS A BRICKS AND MORTAR ANSWER TO THE COMBINATION OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT FACE ALBUQUERQUE.

IN THIS EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL MARKETPLACE, THE
COMMUNITIES THAT SEIZE THESE OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE
THE COMMUNITIES THAT DRIVE OUR COUNTRY'S
ECONOMIC GROWTH.

I ESPECIALLY WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE
ALBUQUERQUE HISPANO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THIS
CENTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BUILT WITHOUT THE
NEARLY TWO MILLION DOLLARS THE CHAMBER RAISED
FROM INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES.

THIS IS HOW IT'S ALL SUPPOSED TO WORK.

IT TAKES MONEY AND HARD WORK TO MAKE AN
INNOVATIVE DREAM SUCH AS THIS ONE INTO A REALITY.
THE DYNAMIC APPROACH YOU'VE TAKEN HERE IN
ALBUQUERQUE IS A CREDIT TO YOUR SPIRIT AND
FORESIGHT.

ENTREPRENEURS LEAD THE WAY TO PROSPERITY FOR THE NATION. THAT'S WHY WE ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE THE ODDS FOR AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES.

AS A SMALL BUSINESSMAN MYSELF, I'VE LEARNED THAT IF YOU LISTEN TO YOUR CUSTOMERS, THEY WILL TELL YOU WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE LISTENING TO YOU, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO YOU WHEN I'M BACK HERE IN ALBUQUERQUE FRIDAY, FOR A SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUMMIT CONFERENCE. I HOPE IT'S THE FIRST OF MANY I HAVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

PRESIDENT BUSH WANTS THE INPUT OF SMALL BUSINESS,
AND HE HAS PROMISED ME THAT SMALL BUSINESS WILL
HAVE A SEAT AT THE ECONOMIC POLICY-MAKING TABLE.

THIS ADMINISTRATION UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PATH TO
JOB CREATION LEADS THROUGH SMALL BUSINESSES.

SMALL BUSINESS IS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE UNITED STATES. SMALL BUSINESSES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE NEW JOBS CREATED IN THE NINETIES.

(AND) SMALL BUSINESSES CREATE GOOD JOBS. JOBS THAT
BRING SECURITY AND HOPE, JOBS THAT ENABLE PEOPLE TO
INVEST FOR THE FUTURE, TO BUY HOMES, BUILD UP
COMMUNITIES, EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN, AND ACHIEVE
THE AMERICAN DREAM.

THESE ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

THERE IS A LOT WE CAN DO TO HELP THIS COMMUNITY

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS CENTER. (AND) ONE OF THE WAYS

WE CAN DO THAT IS BY ESTABLISHING AN SBA BUSINESS

INFORMATION CENTER HERE IN THIS BUILDING.

THE SBA BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTER WILL EMPOWER
THE PEOPLE OF THE BARELAS COMMUNITY TO START, RUN
AND GROW SMALL BUSINESSES, CEMENTING THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JOB SKILLS, SMALL BUSINESSES
AND JOB CREATION.

IT IS THAT SHARED SENSE OF COMMTIMENT, THAT
PARTNERSHIP, THAT IS YOUR GREATEST ASSET. THAT'S
WHAT ENSURES THAT THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF WHAT
YOU'VE BEGUN HERE WILL BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE
CITY AND THE NATION.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK.

THANK YOU.